(iv) The Government has established the Dte. of Anti-Dumping and the Dte. of Safeguards. While the former militates against attempts by foreign suppliers to undercut the indigenous industry by recourse to unfair pricing of their products, the latter protects the domestic industries from a sudden surge in imports.

Decline in Agricultural Export

303. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for fall in agricultural export; and

(b) the steps taken to boost agricultural exports to help the farm sector as well as increase employment in the food processing related industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) International trade in agricultural commodities is dependent on prevailing international demand coinciding with domestic ability to supply, prevailing world prices of commodities, varieties being traded and consumer preferences. The value of agro items exported excluding marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton during the last three years is as below:

1997-98	Rs. 15169 crores	April—Oct. (1997-98)	Rs. 7457.58 crores
1998-99	Rs. 15960 crores	April—Oct. (1998-99)	Rs. 8712.62 crores
		April—Oct. (1999-2000)	Rs. 7202.78 crores

(b) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken specifically for enhancement of exports of agricultural and processed food products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know-how of farmers through demonstrations, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.
3. Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses).

4. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.

5. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially the mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets.

6. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables and fruits.

7. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

8. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

9. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.

10. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, lack of contamination & ensuring freedom from bacteria & fungi;

List regarding patenting of Indian products

†304. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has asked for a list of Indian products with regard to their patenting by other countries;

(b) if so, what is the purpose of asking for this list;

(c) whether Government have furnished the said list to USA;

(d) if so, the number and names of such products; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in order to prevent patenting of any Indian product by other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.